



General Assembly

**Substitute Bill No. 5004**

February Session, 2024



**AN ACT CONCERNING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF CERTAIN CLIMATE CHANGE MEASURES.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) The state hereby declares a  
2 climate crisis to demonstrate the urgency for enacting meaningful  
3 climate legislation and to support increased efforts to secure federal  
4 funds to respond to such crisis. Such crisis threatens the resilience of  
5 communities in the state, regardless of zip code, multiple aspects of the  
6 state's natural resources and infrastructure assets, the state's economy  
7 and the quality of life for younger generations of state residents.  
8 Accordingly, the state recognizes the urgency to significantly and  
9 rapidly decrease greenhouse gas emissions and increase community  
10 coping capacities to handle the impacts of climate change. The state  
11 recognizes the need and urgency to mitigate climate impacts and  
12 prepare for and manage disaster risk from climate change. Such  
13 declaration shall not authorize the Governor to utilize the provisions of  
14 this section to operate the government of the state through executive  
15 order.

16 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) Not later than January 1, 2025,  
17 the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority shall initiate a docket  
18 regarding the future of natural gas use in the state in relation to the  
19 provisions of section 22a-200a of the general statutes. Upon completion

20 of such docket, said authority shall submit a report, in accordance with  
21 the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint  
22 standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of  
23 matters relating to the environment and energy on any  
24 recommendations for legislative changes necessary to implement the  
25 findings of such docket.

26 Sec. 3. Subdivision (3) of subsection (c) of section 32-7t of the 2024  
27 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is  
28 substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

29 (3) The commissioner, upon consideration of an application and any  
30 additional information, may approve an application in whole or in part  
31 or may approve an application with amendments, provided the  
32 commissioner shall give preference to applications that: (A) Make  
33 significant investments in environmentally sustainable practices,  
34 including, but not limited to, zero-carbon energy and energy efficiency,  
35 (B) are in sectors of the economy such as renewable energy, energy  
36 efficiency and zero-emission vehicles, or (C) are for farming operations  
37 that are sustainable from a climate perspective. If the commissioner  
38 disapproves an application, the commissioner shall identify the defects  
39 in such application and explain the specific reasons for the disapproval.  
40 The commissioner shall render a decision on an application not later  
41 than ninety days after the date of its receipt by the commissioner.

42 Sec. 4. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) The Commissioner of Revenue  
43 Services, in collaboration with the Commissioner of Economic and  
44 Community Development, shall identify business fees that are  
45 appropriate for waiver for certified B corporations and farms that are  
46 environmentally sustainable. Not later than January 1, 2025, the  
47 Commissioner of Revenue Services shall submit a list of such fees to the  
48 joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of  
49 matters relating to the environment.

50 Sec. 5. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) Not later than January 1, 2025,  
51 and annually thereafter, Connecticut Innovations, Incorporated shall

52 submit a report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the  
53 general statutes, to the joint standing committees of the General  
54 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to the environment and  
55 energy on investments and assistance provided to companies engaged  
56 in matters related to the mitigation of climate change.

57       Sec. 6. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2024*) Not later than January 1, 2025,  
58 the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection, in  
59 accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes,  
60 shall submit a report to the joint standing committee of the General  
61 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to the environment on  
62 recommendations for amendments to section 16a-48 of the general  
63 statutes to provide for the sale and installation in the state of heating,  
64 ventilation and air conditioning systems, hot water heating systems and  
65 geothermal systems that do not emit greenhouse gases. Such  
66 recommendations shall include, but not be limited to, suggested  
67 implementation dates for any such requirement and proposed  
68 consumer education efforts to inform the public about such systems.

69       Sec. 7. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2024*) The Commissioner of Energy  
70 and Environmental Protection, in conjunction with the Connecticut  
71 Green Bank, shall develop a plan for the installation, within available  
72 resources, of not less than three hundred ten thousand heat pumps for  
73 residential heating systems in the state, including, but not limited to,  
74 through any program established pursuant to section 8-240a, 16a-40b,  
75 16a-40l or 16a-46m of the general statutes. Not later than January 1, 2026,  
76 the commissioner shall submit a report, in accordance with the  
77 provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing  
78 committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters  
79 relating to the environment and energy on the status of such plan in  
80 reaching such goal and any attendant recommendations for expanding  
81 or revising such plan.

82       Sec. 8. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) Not later than October 1, 2024,  
83 the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, in consultation  
84 with the Department of Administrative Services, shall develop a model

85 policy for environmentally sustainable purchasing that municipalities  
86 may voluntarily utilize and implement.

87 Sec. 9. Subsection (e) of section 7-536 of the 2024 supplement to the  
88 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu  
89 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

90 (e) (1) Each municipality may apply to the secretary for project  
91 authorization and expense reimbursement of local capital improvement  
92 projects.

93 (2) Notwithstanding the deadlines imposed by this section, each  
94 municipality that has expended funds in the fiscal year ending June 30,  
95 2013, on projects listed in subparagraphs (T) to (X), inclusive, of  
96 subdivision (4) of subsection (a) of this section may apply to the  
97 secretary for reimbursement of such expenses.

98 (3) (A) Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision (2) of  
99 subsection (f) of this section, the secretary, at the secretary's discretion,  
100 may authorize expense reimbursement for a project listed in  
101 subparagraphs (T) to (Y), inclusive, of subdivision (4) of subsection (a)  
102 of this section prior to such project's inclusion on the local capital  
103 improvement plan adopted by a municipality. The secretary may  
104 require certification from the municipality that such municipality is  
105 taking steps to amend its local capital improvement plan to include such  
106 project.

107 (B) (i) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (c) of this section,  
108 for the period commencing July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2025, the  
109 secretary shall additionally authorize expense reimbursement for any  
110 project listed in subparagraph (Y) of subdivision (4) of subsection (a) of  
111 this section from funds appropriated to the Office of Policy and  
112 Management for such projects.

113 (ii) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (c) of this section,  
114 for the period commencing July 1, 2024, and ending June 30, 2025, the  
115 secretary shall additionally authorize expense reimbursement for any

116 municipality that implements the Office of Policy and Management's  
117 model policy for environmentally sustainable purchasing from funds  
118 appropriated to the Office of Policy and Management for such purpose.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	32-7t(c)(3)
Sec. 4	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 5	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 6	<i>October 1, 2024</i>	New section
Sec. 7	<i>October 1, 2024</i>	New section
Sec. 8	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 9	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	7-536(e)

**APP**      *Joint Favorable Subst.*